the general view has been that conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organisation: (WTO) would help to keep trade open. There is considerable support amongst WTO members for an early resumption of talks.

(c) No, Sir. The principal aim of India's negotiating strategy in the agriculture negotiations has consistently been to protect the interests of farmers particularly with regard to their food and livelihood security. No change in approach is contemplated.

(d) Does not arise.

Irregularities in defence procurement

450. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities in Defence procurement involving several foreign enterprises and certain officials, particularly in Ordnance Factory Board of India and others have been unearthed in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating officials *prima facie* found to be linked and identities of the foreign firms involved therein;

(c) the details of actions initiated, if any, against the entities concerned;

(d) whether Government contemplates to review the existing procedures in defence procurement with view to streamline the same to ensure transparency and to eliminate bribery and kick-backs;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) if not, the rationale therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During May, 2009 CBI had arrested Shri Sudipta Ghosh, former DGOF and Chairman OFB and four other persons on charges of demanding and obtaining illegal gratification, criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct under Sections 8 and 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The foreign firms alleged to be involved are:

(i) Israeli Military Industries (IMI), Israel

(ii) Singapore Technologies (ST) Kinetics

(iii) BBT, Poland

(iv) Media Architects Pte Ltd., Singapore.

(c) The Ministry of Defence has decided to put on hold for the present all pending procurement and acquisition cases involving the firms figuring in the FIR registered by CBI.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. An exercise to review the Defence Procurement Procedure-2008 for increasing transparency in procurements is under way.